

Wasatch Mountaineer

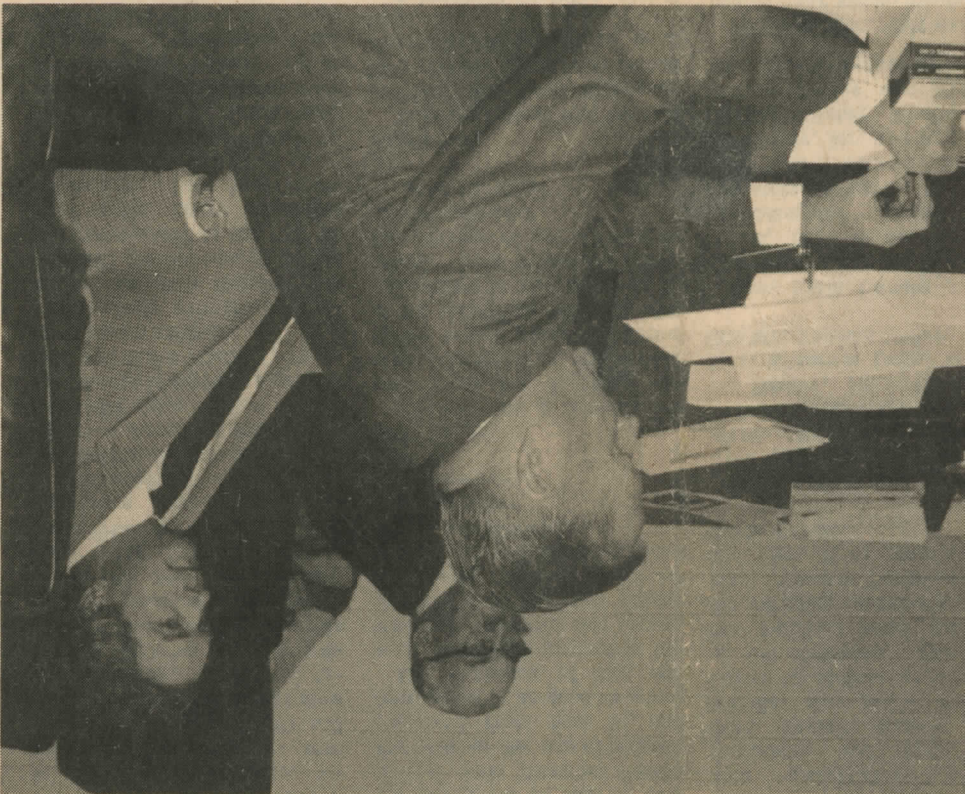
Serving the Needs of Beautiful Wasatch County - Paradise of the Rockies

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Citizens Voice Opinions On Ambulance Service



THE COUNTY COMMISSION opened the new ambulance service at the Wasatch County Hospital. New Commissioners Thomas Baum and Lee Ivers join veteran Harold Smith in arriving at a judicious solution.

The County Commission heard a crowd of disgruntled citizens Tuesday, January 7th complain about the ambulance service at the Wasatch County Hospital.

New Commissioners Thomas Baum and Lee Ivers joined incumbent Harold Smith in listening to the largely undocumented complaints. Central to the issue was the incident of Mr. Rasband's heart attack. All of these depositions state that it had not taken over 10 minutes for Mr. Lange to arrive at the scene from the time the second call had reached the hospital. In her haste and panic, Mrs. Rasband had forgotten to give the address in her deposition. In her deposition the nurse who had received Mrs. Rasband's call said that there was about three or four minutes between the two calls, which may account for the discrepancy between the two sets of stories. After Mr. Lange's presentation of depositions he went on to speak about the problems in volunteer ambulance service. He said the only way to get immediate 24 hour ambulance service is to hire two more cars, but of course, no one will work for two dollars an hour, but Mrs. Wall then said, "It is all really sound great, but I have my opinion it is a snow job. What is really important is caring and good management from the top, which we don't have," Mrs. Earl Dayton the said, "I don't know why these ambulance drivers have to be medically trained, anyway, why, in the four years that

Mrs. Sheets gave a short speech in which she expressed displeasure with the ambulance service. She said she thought it was a deplorable policy for the ambulance to have a minimum time limit for arrival at the scene of emergencies, apparently referring to a previous conversation with Commissioner Smith. At this time her that she had misinterpreted him, and that he had never said anything like that, but was in fact referring to studies that indicated that a ten to twenty minute arrival time was not unreasonable for an ambulance. "To me even one life is important," finished Mrs. Sheets. Next to air his grievance was Earl Dayton, former ambulance driver at the hospital. He began by saying that he had no gripes or bitter feeling for the four years in which he was an ambulance driver. He then

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Rasband was stricken with a heart attack at his home three or four blocks from the hospital. According to the people at the meeting, lead by Mrs. Evelyn Sheets and former ambulance driver Earl Dayton, the elapsed time between the call to the hospital and the arrival of the ambulance was anywhere from twenty minutes to a half hour.

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After the various accusations, it was Mr. Lange's turn for rebuttal. His defense to the various accusations was that he had already occurred and thus serve no useful purpose. After much more talk and debate, Commissioner Baude thanked everyone for showing interest in community affairs and promised that the Commission would do everything in its power to improve and maintain county service within the allowances of the budget. Mrs. Sheets rose again to call for an open meeting similar to the one taking place then, but at night. She said that there were many people who wanted to come but could not because they had to work. The proposal was discussed and the it was decided by all concerned that it would only be a duplication of what had already occurred and thus serve no useful purpose.

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